Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

List of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A non-pressurized liquid supply system for supplying liquid to a plurality of liquid treatment units, the system comprising:

an inflow stage including at least one inflow pipe having a downstream end angled toward a direction of earth's gravity, the inflow stage having an inflow stage cross-sectional area; and

an outflow stage in communication with the inflow stage, the outflow stage including a plurality of outflow pipes for feeding liquid to the plurality of liquid treatment units, each of the outflow pipes having a downstream end angled toward a direction of earth's gravity, the outflow pipes splitting liquid flow from the inflow stage and having an outflow stage cross-sectional area substantially equivalent to the inflow stage cross-sectional area,

the outflow stage and the inflow stage co-operating to maintain substantially constant liquid flow velocity throughout the non-pressurized liquid supply system..

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The non-pressurized liquid supply system of claim 1 wherein the inflow pipes and the outflow pipes are substantially cylindrical.

4. (Original) The non-pressurized liquid supply system of claim 3 wherein the outflow pipes all have the same diameter.

5. (Original) The non-pressurized liquid supply system of claim 3 wherein the inflow pipes all have the same diameter.

6. (Original) The non-pressurized liquid supply system of claim 1 wherein the number of outflow pipes is greater than the number of inflow pipes.

7. (Original) The non-pressurized liquid supply system of claim 1 wherein the number of inflow pipes is greater than the number of outflow pipes.

8. (Original) The non-pressurized liquid supply system of claim 1 further comprising an intermediate stage having an intermediate stage cross-sectional area and including a plurality of intermediate pipes, the intermediate pipes being selected so that the intermediate stage cross-sectional area is substantially equivalent to the inflow stage cross-sectional area.

9. (Original) The non-pressurized liquid supply system of claim 1 further comprising an intermediate stage having an intermediate stage cross-sectional area and including a plurality of intermediate pipes, the intermediate pipes being selected so that the intermediate stage cross-sectional area is substantially equivalent to the combined outflow stage cross-sectional area.

10. (Original) The non-pressurized liquid supply system of claim 1 further comprising a manifold having an inflow end for receiving the at least one inflow pipe, and having an outflow end for receiving the plurality of outflow pipes.

11. (Original) The non-pressurized liquid supply system of claim 1 wherein the non-pressurized liquid supply system is selected from the group consisting of: a drainwater system; a waste water system; and a chemical process system.

12. (Currently Amended) A manifold for use in a non-pressurized liquid supply system for supplying liquid to a plurality of liquid treatment units in which a substantially equivalent cross-sectional area is maintained across pipe stages in the non-pressurized liquid supply system, the manifold comprising:

an inflow end including at least one inflow connector for receiving an inflow stage having at least one inflow pipe having a downstream end angled toward a direction of earth's gravity, the inflow stage having an inflow stage cross-sectional area; and

an outflow end including a plurality of outflow pipe connectors for receiving a plurality of

outflow pipes of an outflow stage, each of the outflow pipes having a downstream end angled toward a direction of earth's gravity, the number of outflow pipe connectors being selected so that an outflow stage cross-sectional area is substantially equivalent to the inflow stage cross-sectional area

the outflow end and the inflow end co-operating to maintain substantially constant liquid flow velocity throughout the non-pressurized liquid supply system.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The manifold of claim 12 wherein the inflow end comprises one inflow connector, and the outflow connectors are perpendicular to the inflow connector.

16. (Original) The manifold of claim 12 wherein the manifold is selected from the group consisting of: a horizontal manifold; and a vertical manifold.

17. (Original) The manifold of claim 12 further comprising an intermediate stage having an intermediate stage cross-sectional area and including a plurality of intermediate pipes, the intermediate pipes being selected so that the intermediate stage cross-sectional area is substantially equivalent to the outflow stage cross-sectional area.

18. (Original) The manifold of claim 17 further comprising an intermediate manifold including the intermediate stage, the intermediate manifold having an intermediate inflow end for interconnecting the inflow stage and the intermediate stage and an intermediate outflow end for interconnecting the intermediate stage and the outflow stage.

19. (Original) The manifold of claim 12 further comprising an intermediate stage having an intermediate stage cross-sectional area, the intermediate pipes being selected so that the intermediate stage cross-sectional area is substantially equivalent to the inflow stage cross-sectional area.

20. (Cancelled)